

National Infrastructure Advisory Council (NIAC)

Prioritization of Critical Infrastructure for a Pandemic Outbreak in the United States Working Group

Status Report
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NIAC Charge and Rationale

- ▣ Study and make recommendations on critical infrastructure prioritization for an influenza pandemic
- ▣ Rationale
 - A severe pandemic can significantly disrupt CI
 - Medical countermeasures (e.g., vaccine) can protect CI but supplies are limited
 - Defining priorities can lead to optimal use of limited resources and best preserve societal function in a pandemic

Charter

▣ Six specific pandemic questions

- Identify and define “critical services” that must be maintained in a pandemic;
- Establish criteria and principles for critical service prioritization;
- Define critical services priority (with principles for variation, if needed);
- Identify critical employee groups in each priority critical service;
- Build a structure for communication and dissemination of resources; and
- Identify principles for effective implementation by DHS and HHS

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Study Group Contributors

Representatives From:

- ▣ Each Critical Infrastructure Sector
- ▣ National Security and Telecommunications Advisory Committee
- ▣ Department of Health and Human Services
- ▣ Department of Homeland Security
- ▣ State and local government

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The Current Pandemic Context

□ Pandemic threat

- Three continents affected by H5N1 avian influenza
- 228 human cases and 130 (57%) deaths (as of 6/20/06)
- Mutation or recombination of genetic material between avian and human influenza could induce pandemic

□ Potential pandemic impacts

- ~2 million U.S. deaths if 1918-like severity
- Societal and economic disruption – up to 40% workplace absenteeism assumed at pandemic peak

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Current Pandemic Response Measures

□ Vaccination

□ Antiviral drug treatment and prophylaxis

□ Community measures

- Social distancing (e.g., close schools, telework, etc.)
- Infection control & personal hygiene (e.g., masks, hand hygiene)

□ Quality health care

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NIAC Working Group Timeline

- ▣ June 27, 2006
 - Convened pandemic study group with revised charter
- ▣ October 10, 2006 NIAC Business Meeting
 - Present Findings and Recommendations
- ▣ January 16, 2007 NIAC Business Meeting
 - Finalize Report and Recommendations

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Discussion

Questions?

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